

Appl. No. 09/976,213

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, former claims 23, 24, 45, 46, and 48 to 54 were allowed, and claims 55 to 59 were rejected.

Rejected claims 55 to 59 have been cancelled in the preceding listing of claims. It should be noted, however, that these claims have been cancelled solely to advance the examination of this application. Applicant does not concede that the cancelled claims are unpatentable.

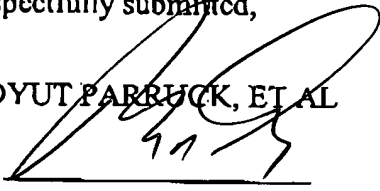
Apart from amendments to claims 46 and 54, claims 23, 24, 45, 46, and 48 to 54 correspond to the allowed claims. The only amendments made in the preceding listing of claims correct a typographical error in claim 46 and replace a reference to "the segmentation engine", which lacked a definite antecedent in claim 54, with a reference to "the segmentation means", introduced in the second clause of claim 54.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action to this effect is earnestly solicited. As noted above, only allowed claims remain in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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Date:

July 5, 2006

DMW:blb